

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66615

DRAFTED BY EA/LC:AFANTIPPAS:CEJ

APPROVED BY EA/LC:AFANTIPPAS

EA/TB - MR. STEARMER

S/S -O: K. KURZE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208745

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION USUN BANGKOK JAKARTA KUALA LUMPUR

SINGAPORE MANILA PHNOM PENH INFO TOKYO WELLINGTON

CANBERRA FM STATE OCT 20, REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208745

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CB

SUBJ: KHMER CREDENTIALS IN UNGA

REFS: USUN 4052, 3653

1. DEPT CONCERNED THAT UNGA VOTE TO INSCRIBE PRO-SIHANOUK
ITEM ON AGENDA NOT RPT NOT BE INTERPRETED AS TANTAMOUNT TO
ACCEPTANCE IN SUBSEQUENT DEBATE OF RESOLUTION FAVORING UN
SEATING OF GRUNK VICE GKR. PRO-SIHANOUK FORCES DOUBTLESSLY
WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO EXAGGERATE SIGNIFICANCE OF
PROCEDURAL VOTE IN HOPES OF GENERATING BANDWAGON PSYCHOLOGY
ON SUBSTANCE. WE ALSO THINK THE PROVISIONAL VOTE
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ESTIMATE IN REFTTEL IS UNDULY DISCOURAGING. MANY

DELEGATIONS ARE NOT YET FULLY AWARE OF IMPLICATIONS OF VOTING IN FAVOR OF GRUNK, AND THERE IS STILL MUCH THAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, PARTICULARLY SINCE SO MANY COUNTRIES OF THE REGION ARE ACTIVELY OPPOSING THE PRO-SIHANOUK RESOLUTION.

2. WE ARE CONSIDERING MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF TRYING TO OVERCOME VOTING DEFICIT WE FACE ON SUBSTANCE. WE UNDERSTAND ESTIMATES MENTIONED REFTEL ARE NOT DEFINITIVE AND THAT FRIENDLY ASIANS, AS FIRST STEP, ARE NOW APPROACHING OTHER UN DELS TO GAIN CLEARER PICTURE OF VOTING SITUATION.

3. ISSUES POSED FALL BROADLY INTO TWO CATEGORIES: (A) STRONG US INTEREST IN PRESERVING CREDENTIALS OF LON NOL GOVT, AND (B) EFFECT UPON UN AS INSTITUTION, AS WELL AS UPON INTERESTS OF ITS MEMBERS, OF EFFORT TO DICTATE "NEW FACTS" BY MAJORITY FIAT REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL REALITIES IN COUNTRIES CONCERNED. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE STRONG EFFORT MUST BE MADE IN NEAR FUTURE TO POINT OUT PREJUDICIAL EFFECTS SUCH PRECEDENT WOULD HAVE ON UN AND ON ANY GOVT WHERE DEPOSED POLITICAL LEADERS MIGHT SOMEDAY ATTRACT SUPPORT OF CAPRICIOUS NON-ALIGNED POPULARITY.

4. VOTE IN FAVOR OF INSCRIPTION OF COURSE REFLECTS TRADITIONAL POSITION OF MANY COUNTRIES NOT TO OPPOSE DEBATE ON ANY SUBJECT, NO MATTER HOW FRIVOLOUS OR HOW MUCH THEY OPPOSE SUBSTANCE. SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN, WEST EUROPEAN, AND AFRICAN PRO-INSCRIPTION VOTES FALL IN THIS CATEGORY AND WE BELIEVE SUCH GOVERNMENTS CAN BE EXPECTED OR PERSUADED TO QUESTION DESIRABILITY OF SUBSTITUTING EXILE LEADER FOR ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT.

5. IT OCCURS TO US THAT MANY COUNTRIES, NOTABLY AFRICANS, MAY EQUATE POSITION IN FAVOR OF "GOVT" OF GUINEA-BISSAU WITH ENHANCEMENT OF STATUS OF PRINCE SIHANOUK'S GRUNK. TO SUCH COUNTRIES IT COULD BE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE IN AFRICA THERE IS CONSENSUS WITHIN REGION ABOUT PAIGC, EXACTLY OPPOSITE IS CASE WITH RESPECT TO GRUNK. THERE ARE OF COURSE ALSO OTHER MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN THAT GKR IS ESTABLISHED, LEGAL GOVT WHICH HAD EJECTED SIHANOUK AND

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LATTER IS NOT EVEN PRESENT IN CAMBODIA BUT IS HARBORED BY ONE OF THE GREAT POWERS. WHEREAS GUINEA-BISSAU CAN THUS BE SEEN AS COLONIAL ISSUE, THERE IS NO SUCH ASPECT TO ISSUE OF KHMER CREDENTIALS WHICH INVOLVES OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CAMBODIA.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AMONG OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED BY ASEANS IN NEW YORK, IS TABLING OF DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING

INTER ALIA FOR CONCILATION AMONG POLITICAL FACTIONS WHICH REPRESENT THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE AND DEFERMENT OF SEATING ISSUE, THUS MAINTAINING STATUS QUO UNTIL CAMBODIANS RESOLVE THEIR INTERNAL DIFFERENCES. ASIANS WILL WISH TO IMPRESS UPON UNGA THAT KHMER ISSUE IS AN ASIAN PROBLEM WHICH SHOULD BE SETTLED BY ASIANS. WE SEE MERIT IN THIS APPROACH AND ARE PREPARED TO GIVE SUPPORT TO SUCH RESOLUTION.

7. ACCORDINGLY, ACTION POSTS REQUESTED TO MAKE KNOWN TO ASIAN SUPPORTERS OF GKR THAT WHILE IN MANY CASES ASIAN INITIATIVES WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE, WE ARE WILLING TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE FEASIBLE IN LOBBYING AT UN AND IN CAPITALS TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS. SINCE TIME IS SHORT, FRIENDLY EFFORTS NEED TO BE UNDERTAKEN PROMPTLY. WHILE WE DEFER TO WISHES OF ASIAN GROUP WITH RESPECT TO PREFERRED TACTICAL COURSE AND MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF US LOBBYING EFFORTS, THEY SHOULD CLEARLY UNDERSTAND USG IS PREPARED TO MAKE STRONG EFFORT IN SUPPORT OF GKR.

8. DEPT HAS INFORMATION THAT A NUMBER OF ASIAN MEMBERS BELIEVE SECRETARY WILL TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH PRC ON KHMER ISSUE DURING HIS SCHEDULED TRIP TO PEKING. IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVT ON KHMER ISSUE, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT US POLICY TOWARD GKR REMAINS STEADFAST, THAT THE SECRETARY DOES NOT INTEND RAISE ISSUE WITH CHINESE AND THAT HE HAS NO PLANS TO MEET WITH SIHANOUK. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE208745
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AFANTIPPAS:CEJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973107/aaaaafbv.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: USUN 4052, 3653
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Nov-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER CREDENTIALS IN UNGA
TAGS: CB, UN
To: RANGOON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005